

NEWSLETTER

Now you can record your catch online

New system goes live on 18th March

As intimated in our End of Season Newsletter, we are now ready to launch our online catch return system in time for the new season. Developed by Mark Ritson, it should relieve the Head Keeper of a great deal of work and provide management with up to date information throughout the season.

Mark demonstrated the software after the AGM Dinner, when he reassured members without access to a computer that the Head Keeper would happily input the data for them. Just phone or text him with your catch after your day on the river.

Those of you with email will be sent a step by step instruction manual together with an invitation to log in to the system with the creation of your own unique password. Only you and the system administrator will be able to view your returns.

The new system has the facility to record the catches of

your guests separately and you will be able to view the cumulative returns for the Club as a whole on a beat by beat basis. Obviously there is a great deal of trust being placed on members to update the system in a regular and timely manner. We also expect members not to abuse the guest rod facility, something we will be keeping under observation. Fishing rule 6 asks members to notify the keepers in advance if they are taking a guest.

One or two members attending the dinner said they would miss being able to study the catch return sheets, particularly the comments left by members concerning fly hatches and noteworthy fish. This was a good point so it was agreed that we would place a diary in each hut for members to record their observations, thoughts and suggestions. It would also allow members to record the names of their guests for the benefit of the keepers.

Welcome

This year we have eleven new members, quite a few of them from the Deep South. Such is the reputation of our Club that not only are prospective members prepared to wait years for their turn, they also think nothing of a 400 mile round trip to fish the Hallowed Waters! We welcome them to share in our good fortune.

We bid a sad farewell to Evan Ivey, who passed away in January. Another Southerner, he fished the Wye with his wife Mary for many years, as guests of the Cavendish Hotel, only becoming a member recently.

Such inroads into our waiting list remind us that to keep it healthy it needs to be regularly replenished. So please do not hesitate to encourage your fly fishing friends to put their names forward for membership.

David Marriott

GRAYLING ON BEAT 8

Members will be familiar with the sight of grayling



spawn in the pool adjacent to the Bobbin Mill, although maybe not in such intimate detail as in Jack Perks' underwater photo! Colin

Dimond has asked if, during spawning, (roughly the first 6 weeks of the trout season) members could exercise discretion when fishing this pool in order

not to disturb them. There is no evidence to suggest that our activities have a negative effect on the grayling but perhaps it is best to err on the side of caution.

The grayling is of course a tenacious fish, already holding special privileges in our waters, rule 8 forbidding the killing of these fish. During our tenure grayling catch returns have averaged about 400 per season so they seem to have reached a steady state since they were introduced many years ago under Chatsworth's management, following the shortening of the rainbow trout season.

“THE WILD GEESE” - A C&L PRODUCTION

BY CHRIS THIRTLE

“*Oh, but I like my geese. Like cats, they can't be told what to do, like dogs, they are loyal, and like people, they talk every chance they get.*” Words originally penned by Shannon Hale but words that sum up my experience of ‘minding’ the geese that made Duffers home.

Having successfully provided security for the fishing hut for two winters, and saved us from mowing the grass so often, the geese have been retired from active service and relocated to Earl Sterndale Mere for some well-earned R&R. Earl Sterndale, it seems, is the place where all the Club's retired keepers end up! Thanks go to David Percival for finding them a fitting place to see out their days, and their perfect new ‘minder’, in Clive Howarth.

On Friday 3 February, the Keepers, assisted by Julia Gow from the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and Nicky Loveday - aka the AKA (Assistant Keeper's Assistant!) - managed to secure the geese inside Chris Dore's dog box (Bess being left at home on this occasion). The containment process proved to be an event of two halves. The capture of the first two geese was a demonstration of brilliant military planning and teamwork, but the lone escapee developed effective counter tactics, ‘on the fly’ as it were! Yes, he discovered he could fly! On our third attempt however, the AKA countered with a flying

tackle of her own and the goose was cooked, or caught anyway.

An uneventful journey to their new home



ensued. On arrival, their initial reluctance to leave the box was short lived and within minutes they were exploring their new surroundings, swimming on the mere, eating, and basically behaving like they'd been there all their lives. May they live happily ever after.

Post script: sadly one of the geese has since met an untimely end, possibly killed by a dog or a fox.

DUFFERS AND LOCKED BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS

We were considering replacing the Hut at Duffers but on reflection it was decided to replace the internal fittings instead. Consequently Chris Thirtle has been working hard to give both huts a makeover in time for Opening Day. The old cupboards and worktops have been stripped out, new flooring has been laid and new units and work tops installed. We have also reduced the clutter on the walls.

Meanwhile, the Erstwhile Head Keeper and his charming assistant Stuart Crofts have been busy replacing the solar panels and lights with new and more

efficient systems. We are told that the lights will be much brighter and will last longer.



one adjacent to the memorial bench at Locked Bridge. He has

Not to be outdone, Chris Dore has made an excellent new picnic table to replace the old

also been working with one of our members, Derek Buxton, putting down some hard standing in the Locked Bridge car park. We are most grateful to Derek, who gave us free use of his digger for the project. Don Stazicker described him as “The Ronaldo of Digger Drivers”!



THE CRESSBROOK & LITTON UPWING & STONEFLY PROJECT



The Willow Fly (S M Crofts)

This is the second year of this project and once again it has produced some interesting results. The way this project works is quite simple. In each of the three fishing huts there are sample packs available for members to pick up. Each pack consists of a small zip-lock bag containing a screw top sample tube and an information slip. Members are invited to take along a sample pack when they go fishing. If they come across any upwing flies, or stoneflies, they can be caught and put into a sample tube. On returning to the fishing hut, the sample tube is filled with some preserving alcohol and, very importantly, the information slip is completed with the member's name along with the date and beat number where the sample was caught. The tube and information slip are returned to the zip-lock bag and placed in the box where I can pick them up later for analysis.

The term "upwing flies" refers to the insects in the order Ephemeroptera. This includes some very familiar insects as far as anglers are concerned, such as the blue winged olives, mayflies and iron blues. The name "stoneflies" relates to the insects in the order Plecoptera. These are less well known and, like the caddis flies (that I study in detail), tend to be overlooked by the angler, yet they are often taken eagerly by the fish the angler is trying to catch.

What is important is that I require only the adult stages of these insects for the purposes of this project, for the flight period data. And, as anglers will be aware, the upwings are peculiar in that all our UK species have two adult stages.

Anglers know these as *duns* and *spinners*. It does not matter which are collected; in fact getting samples of both is very useful as some species are easier to identify to full species level as duns, while others can only be positively identified at the spinner stage.

So what did you find in 2016? Well let us start with the upwings. We managed to record one particular species on every single beat of the fishery during a single season - *Baetis rhodani*, more commonly known as the large dark olive. In my heart of hearts I knew this would be the case but there is nothing like having hard evidence to prove it. The other good news is that a new species was recorded on the fishery in 2016 - *Heptagenia sulphurea* (the yellow may dun). Again, I was sure it would be there, especially in the lower beats, but now it is confirmed.

Now to the stoneflies. As with the upwings, we recorded one particular species on every single beat during one season. This was *Protonemura meyeri*, the common early brown. I find these regularly in the Spring but once again it is good to have the proof that they are present throughout the fishery. Additionally, there were four new species recorded in 2016. These were *Brachyptera risi*, *Siphonoperla torrentium*, *Perlodes mortoni* and *Taenio nebulosa*. The *Brachyptera risi*, *Siphonoperla torrentium* and *Perlodes mortoni* were not such a surprise as I see these frequently in the area but *Taeniopteryx nebulosa* was a very welcome find. The full name of this species is *Taeniopteryx nebulosa britannica*. It is endemic to the UK and I have never collected it on the Wye before.

The full report, which can be found on the Riverfly Surveys page of the website, gives you all the details of everything that was found, with charts showing not only the 2016 finds but also cumulative records, which are building up nicely. Please make use of this information - it will hopefully help you to make sense of what is going on around you while you are fishing.

Lastly, I hope you can find time to have a look at the full report as it once again highlights the richness of this wonderful river. Never take it for granted because it is a very rare and special place.

Stuart M Crofts

January 2017

TIED & TESTED BY STUART CROFTS
THE PEN-NIB EMERGER

The natural adult midge emerging through the surface film.

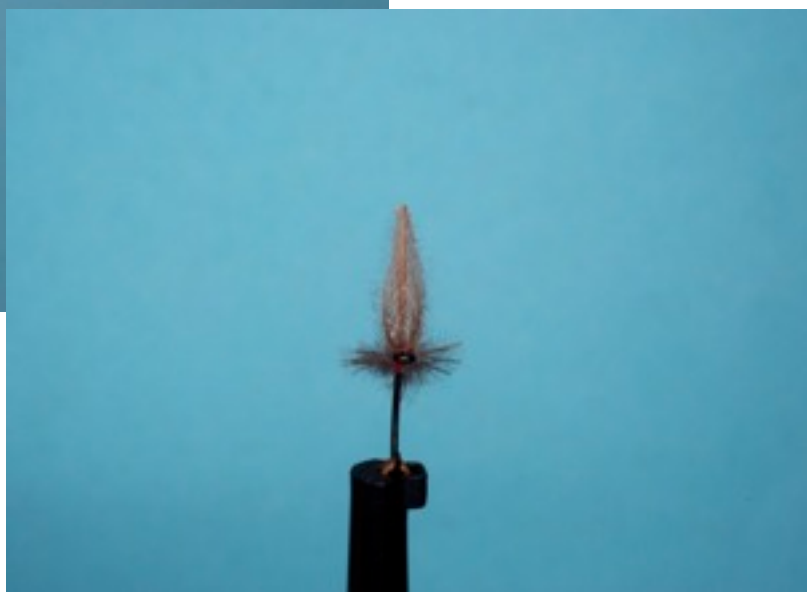
At this stage the wings and legs of the adult have yet to escape the pupal shuck.



Side view showing the angle of the emerging body. The rear-facing CDC feathers are simply to aid flotation. The bare hook bend imitates the empty shuck but a body of tying thread can be added if you wish.



Front elevation showing the CDC fibres drawn down and trapped by the tying thread.



TIED & TESTED BY STUART CROFTS
THE PEN-NIB EMERGER

Hook - Varivas 2200 BL size 22 - 24 or smaller

Thread - Unithread 8/0 - colour to match the midges you find

Wing & Nib - Single CDC feather

Body - Optional (tying thread)

Thorax - Dubbed mole or other fine fur to complement the colour of the CDC

Tying Sequence

- a. Start the thread behind the hook eye and work just a quarter of the way down the hook. If you want, you can go round the bend to give a thin body of tying thread, then come back to a point about 2-3 mm behind the hook eye - BUT this stage is entirely optional.
- b. Strip the flue off the base of a CDC feather.
- c. Lift the feather into the tying thread with the stripped part of the quill pointing over the eye and the natural curve of the feather facing up. Add a soft wrap or two of thread to hold the quill in place.
- d. Take hold of the stripped quill and gently pull the feather through the wraps to produce the "pen nib" part of the fly.
- e. When set at the correct length (about the same as the length of the hook) the feather can then be secured with tighter thread wraps.
- f. Add a tiny amount of dubbing to the thread and cover the thread wraps to create a small thorax. Also, add one turn of dubbing in front of the "pen nib" to prop it up.
- g. Tie off behind the eye.
- h. Cut off the CDC pointing over the back of the hook to make a flat supporting "wing".
- i. Lastly, trim the bare quill of the feather at the point where the trapped CDC fibres begin, creating the "pen nib"

Attributes of the fly plus notes

- This pattern is so simple it's scary!
- Small emerging midges can drive you mad as the fish sip down the naturals one after the other, ignoring all you have to offer.
 - When this happens stop fishing and watch carefully - can you see any tiny "pen nibs" drifting on the surface? Are the fish taking them?
 - If the answer is YES then it is the time to use this pattern.
 - It will need a fine tippet (7 or even 8X) and you will need to cast accurately to put the fly on the nose of the fish, otherwise it just won't be seen.
 - For me a genuine niche filler. You won't need it often but when you do it can change your day from frustration to sheer joy!



LAST CAST

Beat 8 Fencing

Grayling fishers will have seen Stuart Chapman hard at work replacing the fencing on Beat 8. By the start of the season the work should be complete.

The original fence had been unable to withstand the attentions of the buffalo and had collapsed in several places, giving them access to the riverbank. We understand that the lease of the fields has now changed hands and it is believed that the new farmer will be stocking with sheep only, hence the new fence has sheep netting.



Happy Birthday Don!

Orvis staff at Bakewell surprised Don Stazicker by presenting him with this fishing - themed birthday cake at their recent Fly Tying Evening.

The Anglers' Rest

You will be pleased to know that the Anglers' Rest in Millers Dale is no longer out of bounds to members, the pub having been sold to the owners of the Horse & Jockey in Tideswell, Barry & Vicky Phillips. If the reviews on TripAdvisor are to be relied on, the food and the beer are excellent and the landlords & staff are very welcoming. It was a bit *deja vu* going in there after an absence of ten years, particularly seeing Whittle back in his corner.

Catch & Release

Our rules allow for a modest number of trout to be taken but thankfully it is rare to see a member killing fish these days. When the rules were set the taking of a 6 fish limit was commonplace but attitudes have changed and the vast majority of members now practice catch & release. For many years now less than 1% of the total catch has been killed and surely in time this will become zero.

Reflecting this trend, our rules call for the use of barbless hooks and as a consequence it is unusual to catch a damaged fish. It is best however not to faff about playing fish - get them in quickly and release them if you can without taking them out of the water. Bigger fish may need to be supported facing the oncoming current until they can swim off strongly. Definitive advice on C&R can be found on the Wild Trout Trust website www.wildtrout.org on the About Trout page.

By the way, if you do decide to take a fish or two for the table, please ensure that they are marked stock fish. This year's stocking will be marked with two blue dots on the underside.

Calendar

14 March 2017

Annual meeting and Dinner

18 March 2017

Start of Trout Season

16 June 2017

Start of Grayling Season

29 June 2017

Bugs & Burgers Evening with Stuart Crofts

7 October 2017

End of Trout Season

14 November 2017

End of Season Meeting and Dinner

14 March 2018

End of Grayling Season



For sound advice, tuition and all your fishing tackle requirements, visit Peter Arfield at The Fly Fishing Shop, Hebden Court, Bakewell. Telephone 01629 813531. www.bakewellflyfishing.com